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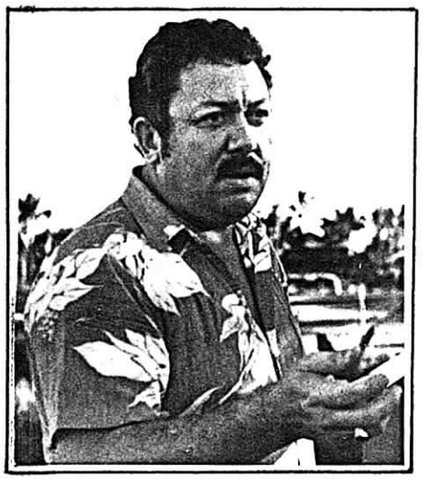
No. 24 December 7 1987 Atiu- Cook Islands

OPINIONS MANNERS POLITICS

MONEY BOOKS YOU NAME IT

"The most open interview ever given in CIs. politics"

"There's nothing to hide!"



*Corruption with government contracts? I get sick of the insinuations. Go and look through my books...they are all there waiting.

*Europeans? Let them think. I'm their greatest supporter even if some of them like to look upon me as some 'jumped up Maori'!

*Hand out jobs? My Atiuan people are entitled to whatever I can get them.

AND LOTS MORE IN....NORMAN GEORGE AT HOME.....PAGE 8

Tahiti

Paradise explodes again! This time a political fire is raging across Papeete with ministerial resignations and a vote of no-confidence.

The Remittanceman

The death of the much respected George Tepou Rongotini Kelly last week in Tahiti at the age of 85 is more than just a deep and sad loss of the family head of the Kelly family which owns the JOURNAL.

It is the end of a life story which is no more or less the story of the Cook Islands Maori working class. PAGE 3

INSIDE

AIDS and its greatest potential Polynesian victims - the powdered, painted "laelaes". What 'they' say....INSIDE!

F.L.N.K.S.

The latest Congress of the FLNKS, the legitimate voice of the people of Kanaky, rejects passive resistance

December 7 1987

Editorial

PACIFIC ANTI-DESTABILISATION HQ, 13A Reef View, TONGA TRENCH.

Tuesday- Half past 2.

INTELLIGENCE: Yes, Private Tu ?

PRIVATE TU: Fax just in from Pitcairn, Sir. Bad news!

INTELLIGENCE: Good God! You don't mean..

PRIVATE TU: 'Fraid so, Sir. The SDA Militant Wing have started a counter-putsch.

INTELLIGENCE: I thought they were all SDA's on Pitcairn.

PRIVATE: Not the 8th and 9th Day splinter groups. They're in league with the Truk separatists up North.

INTELLIGENCE: What on earth for ?

PRIVATE TU: God knows, sir.

INTELLIGENCE: That's where you're wrong, Private. We have it on reliable information that He hasn't a clue what's going on down here!

"No, but Seriously

First reactions to the news of internal strife within the ranks of French Polynesia's ruling Tahoeraa Huiraatira Coalition have been understandable.

They have tended to link the attempted vote of no-confidence in President Jacquie Teuira to both the late October dockers' industrial violence and other examples of so-called political unrest in the Region in 1987.

"Yet another sign of the Pacific's increasing instability/volatility etc..." is a currently popular summary among political commentators from the Western media.

They are wrong about Tahiti. They are wrong about the Region.

They is no ethnic instability in the Pacific as volatile as Yugoslavia's; no political instability as great as Italy's, Spain's or Portugal; no society as polarised as Britain's; no state violence as extreme as England's or Czechoslovakia's...also etc etc.

The "stability" that is being rocked a trifle in the Pacific is that of the colonial structures constructed by the SPC in 1947 and by the individual imperial powers in their Pacific territories.

Rather than "instability" we are seeing the attempts (often spontaneous and random on the surface but well articulated deep down) to establish "stability" on Pacific Regional terms.

In this light, the Papeete dockers are seen as industrial activists driven into confrontation and the Tahoeraa "disputes" as the inner workings of a sophisticated political coalition.

They are symptoms of what IS happening in the Region.. ..not political instability but increasing political awareness. "

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ECONOMICS & BUSINESS

The passing of a great working class Cook Islander is marked by an obituary which traces much of our economic history this century.

POLITICS

A special invitation to a controversial "At Home" with Atiuan Foreign Minister Norman George. Plus latest international news.

LIVING

Papeete's "raeraes" offer insights into the "professionals'" attitude to the dreaded AIDS virus. Also a review of the big movie hit of the year.

VERA

The satirist goes international again with a pictorial study of political leadership in boringly troubled times AND...a rapid survey of the planet's trivia.

THE JOURNAL

"Get to know the REAL Cook Islands"

a national publication.

The JOURNAL is a weekly review of life and events in the Cook Is. Polynesia and the World from an independent regional standpoint.

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ECONOMICS

Obituary

The Remittanceman

The story of the Cook Islands working class is the story of Makatea.

And the story of Makatea is the story of Cook Islands family heads like the late George Tepou Rongotini Kelly who died last week in Faaa, Tahiti at the age of 85.

Kelly and up to at times 500 other male labourers in the Makatea phosphate mines in the 1940's composed the first ever Cook Islands industrial proletariat of modern times.

Academics often argue about what is truly traditional in the structure of Cook Islands society.

The arguments are the stuff of foreign PhD's.

ABOVE: The extended Rua Patiare family of Atiu in Makatea French Polynesia in the 1940's. Makatea was a watershed in Cook Islands economic development, altering family structure to an extent that many families are now under dramatically different structural and directional formations than were "traditional". Makatea is also regarded as the starting point for the MIRAB economic model of our economy. (far left Mrs. Tereapii Kelly, wife of Tepou and mother of George; 4 from right back row, the legendary Rua Patiare)

History

History has not given the working man much choice with regard to the structure within which he works.

But the Cook Islands worker did have traditionally one asset that set him aside from his brothers and gave him a degree of choice.

This was his right to land.

He may have been pretty solidly under the control of his local leaders but he did have inalienable access to his own piece of land.

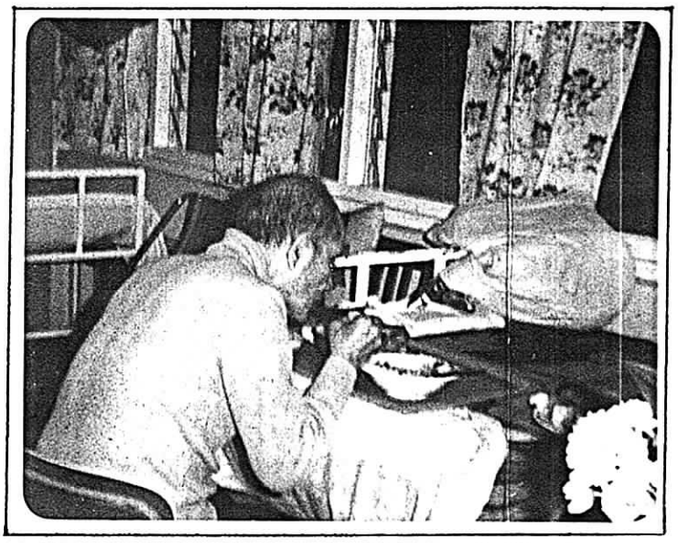
It put him in an economic class of his own. Neither fully peasant nor fully proletarian.

Whatever suffering he endured in the years up to WW2, they were not those of the landless peasant or the labour exploited proletariat.

It took WW2 to render his landownership valueless.

During WW2 the largely homogenious CIs. society which had grown out of the deprivations and bigotry of the nineteenth century found itself with two new groups of workers.

Each in time was to play a significant part in the creation of the capitalist



The last photograph of Tepou Kelly in hospital before the paralysing stroke which left him bedridden throughout the eighties. (Ph. by courtesy T. Kelly)

(continued on Page 4.....)

The Remittanceman

structure we witness growing up around us today.

One group comprised a new peasant class. They still paradoxically owned land. But that land was seriously decreasing in usefulness. Shipping was curtailed in war conditions. Agricultural resources were in decline.

The economic model which had served a society built around a chiefly and subchiefly organisation was crumbling.

The chiefs and subchiefs remained. But there was little left of the economic model to organise.

A couple of hurricanes assisted the crumbling process.

The existence of the peasant class led to the emergence of a potential proletariat. Ready to sell their labour. If there was anyone around to sell it to!

Web

There was!

The web was being woven up North. The Cook Islands working man became entrapped within it in 1944. He is still in it. Still threshing around to find a way out!

When the Japanese over-ran Nauru, NZ and Australia required a new source of phosphate..cheaply.

When industrialised nations require cheap secondary industry, they have always looked to the peasant to offset their biggest expense - labour.

Cheap labour at the time was, of course, in short supply. Most of it was front-lining for MacArthur and Tojo at the time.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

..and suddenly there was an Avatiu/Atiu community in the heart of French Polynesia! The Tepou Kelly extended family in the early 1960's. BACK ROW second left (obscured)-Tepou Kelly; Front row extreme left Tereapii Kelly; Standing (centre back row in white) the well-known "Mama Miri".

Except for Cook Islanders...and their newly emerging peasant class with their newly emerging worthless land.

Contracts were put on offer for the French Polynesian island of Makatea where there was plenty of cheap phosphate waiting to be exploited as soon as a reasonable number of exploitable labourers could be rounded up.

There were some Cook Islanders already around in French Polynesia. Among them was Rua Patiare, an Atiuan who had been absent for the big 1915-19 High Court Land carve-up on Atiu.

He had a daughter from Atiu who was married to George Tepou Kelly, eldest son in the Rongotini line.

They lived in Avatiu in a little house just off the main road where their eldest son, young George, was born.

George Sr. was potentially a big man, culture-wise. Sort of princely-stature at least with eldest son status in family land holdings that stretched through Matavera, Tupapa, Avatiu, Nikao and Arorangi.

But princes were proletarian paupers in the 1940's and, like many an eldest son and family head, George Tepou took off for Makatea with a contract that reportedly paid £4 a month with 50% compulsorily remitted to the family back home.

The land was left in the care of younger brothers, then cousins and nieces and nephews and whoever of the family stayed on.

Many a family broke up into the same pattern.

Conditions were appalling on Makatea.

At one stage 500 phosphate workers from the Cook Islands existed in coolie huts under 19th century labour conditions.

About 70 women-cum-camp followers also existed.

Tepou Kelly brought out his whole family as did some others in order to avoid the contract man's perennial occupational hazard - family break-up.

It took Tom Davis, Albert Henry, the Auckland Unions and the fledgling CIs. Labour movement to negotiate alterations in the horrific conditions.

Labour conditions are, however, one of the rare variables in the capitalist mode of industrial production.

Other elements in the economic equation are not.

Live

The Makatea may have had many a claim to aristocratic status back in the land of his ancestors.

In French Polynesia he was a member of the proletariat.

He sold his labour. He negotiated conditions. He bought from the company shop.

He also found himself a unit simultaneously part of two economic models. One was the classic capitalist model of French Polynesia. The other was as components 1 and 2 in what economists now refer to as the MIRAB model (migration, remittance, aid and bureaucracy).

The aid and bureaucracy were components that grew in relevance after independence.

Tepou Kelly and his contemporaries were the first significant group of CIs. migrants who went out selling their labour to foreign markets and remitting cash back home.

They were the CIs. first "Remittancemen".

In an ironic twist, the term "Remittance" man was a colonial term used to describe

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

The Remittanceman

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

(usually) aristocratic European family rascals sent off to the colonies to get lost and funded by "remittances" from a relieved family back home.

CIs. "Remittancemen" send money the other way.

They are the key factor in the CIs. economic model, enabling capitalism and government to expand free of working class population pressure the need to pay realistic wages (Forget not that we get most of our imports from NZ, pay up to twice NZ prices for them on roughly ⅓ NZ wages or less!) and the industrial tensions required if universal fairness is to exist to an extent within the capitalist model.

Tepou Kelly was the archetypal remittance man. The price he and his family paid and continues to pay for his role as Remittanceman is considerable.

Like many a Remittance Man before and after, he took the one contract too many

By the time the phosphate had run out in Makatea, he had a growing French Polynesian Cook Is. family, his control over his Rarotongan land holdings had irretrievably weakened and he was working as a gardener in urban Tahiti.

The story is not, in itself, an unusual one. It is repeated by Cook Islanders in NZ, Australia and other parts of the Pacific. It is repeated by the the working class of all nations the world over.

What makes Tepou Kelly's story a little different from many of the others are the achievements of his twenty children, one of whom has reached ministerial rank in the Tahitian government.

Before submitting to paralysis through a crippling stroke, Tepou Kelly lived to see a successful family grow up.

There is no other final reward for the Remittanceman.

Tepou Kelly's life began in the first year of annexation. It long unfolding tale of struggle, risk, hardship and responsibility is the story of the the Cook Islands working class in the twentieth century.

It is the economic history of Cook Islands families that the life of Tepou Kelly reveals.

As such, it can be written far more accurately than we can ever hope to do.

What we hope, however, is that we have offered a glimpse of the human realities which provide the fodder for the PhD's, the human truths which the brochures obscure, and the humanity which is the flesh of economic bones.

Tepou Kelly was a symbol of the Cook Is. working man's enduring strength and resilience

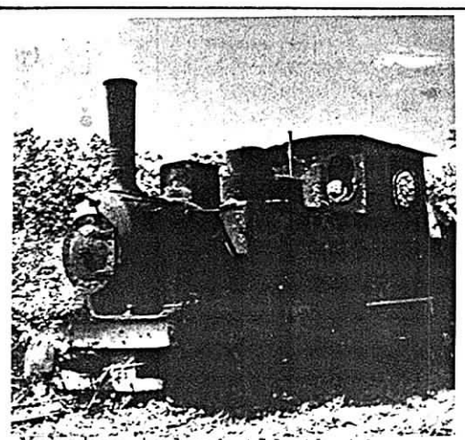
He was also a man, a family head and father of the owner of this paper.

In both respects, we honour him and the men of Makatea, that massively exploited 500 who founded our modern economy.

Comment

"In the late 40's the CI import-export gap began to widen seriously. The largescale emigration to work in the Makatea phosphate mines which ensued was a landmark in CI history. It provided an immediate demand for imports that was not export-restrained. In this way it created the initial raising of expectations among recipients of income from remittance thus drawing the rest of society into the structure. Further, it provided for the reproduction of these conditions, the marketable skills and money for fares to enter the NZ labour market. It also began and set in motion the long term syphoning of the labour surplus into NZ which has been the prime depressant of social criticism and change in CI society."

CIs, Research scholar Nicky Lewis



Makatea today! All that's left of the Phosphate industry which kept Allied agriculture in business! 4 families. A rusting train (above) and a widely scattered Cook Islands Maori proletariat.

POLITICS Focus

"There's nothing to hide!"

An invitation "at home" by Hon. Norman George Minister of Foreign Affairs for CIs. talk, CIs. lager, CIs. controversy and Atiuan hospitality!

One of the most controversial figures in CIs. politics is Foreign Minister Norman George, MP for the Atiuan constituency of Areora/Ngatiarua and Te Ngatangi.

His is the most meteoric rise to high national status of any CIs. MP in the 22 years of independent government.

A little known younger son of a prominent Atiuan family, Norman George had grown up as an ordinary Atiuan primary schoolboy until the time he took the then inevitable step of moving to NZ to further education and opportunity.

He became known among those who follow the fortunes of the CIs. people overseas as a middle level achiever moving up through the ranks of the NZ Police.

As one of the few Pacific Islands professionals in the NZ social services, it was predicted that his career would involve a solid rise within the NZ Police ranks, a modestly comfortable existance as a NZ professional and an involvement in CIs. life among the NZ-based communities.

In the 1970's he seemed destined for such a career.

He had a house, a wife, a good career and was embarking upon a career advance via a law degree.

It was nice, comfortable and involved little or no risk.

The epic political events of 1978 altered the whole perspective.

The George family were early recruits to the early 1970's Democratic Party cause.

The older members of the family, such as "father figure" Dr. Don George had turned to the Demos in long-simmering opposition to Albert Henry whom

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

The George family of Atiu and Titikaveka (L-R): Kevin, Norman Sr., Alex, Leon, Brett, Nrs. Tungane George, Norman Jr.

the 9uorums (AN EVERYDAY TALE OF POLITICAL FOLK) tropo

E Minita! The opposition have offered me zillions to change sides!
Of course, I told 'em where they could put their zillions...
...and... then I told 'em.. er.. I was almost certainly due for a rise.. eh Minita.. er.. eh?
Industrial negotiations were never my strong point.

POLITICS

(ctd..from Page 6)

they associated with disastrous family investments in the 1950's.

The younger Norman ("I recollect very little of that period") joined the Demos out of a sense of conviction, a shared belief with the new generation of educated CIs-ers that the long CIP control had denied opportunities for individual CIsers to advance.

It was essentially a right wing movement. It demanded de-regulation and free enterprise, a removal of bureaucratic restraint

"We've worked for something we can be proud of."

and the creation of a climate of freedom.

Norman George played a strategic role in the build-up to the 1978 elections and the ensuing protracted legal battle which led to the overturning of the 1978 CIP government.

As a senior Auckland policeman, he was targetted for high level criticism by the CIP supporters.

He was named right up to NZ cabinet level as an 'agent provocateur' for the Demos.

Norman George's supporters speak highly of his involvement at that time.

"He had nothing to gain personally. And everything to lose professionally by his involvement. He, more than any of the others could be said at that time to be working for what he believed was the good of the CIs. people."

"Vincent, Iaveta and the others...they had Parliamentary seats to gain," they note, " Norman had both a prosperous NZ career and the possibility of being able to return to the CIs. at stake. He had a lot to lose."

The day of reckoning for Norman George came after the Demos had taken office.

His acceptance of the post of CIs. Consul amounted to a long-term decision that his career lay with the CIs. rather than NZ.

Students at the time speak of him being the most respected Consul they have had. It is widely considered that he did well revealing at the time what many regard as his main political strengths, concern with individual people's personal problems and and an open-ness to have things out face to face.

His later decision to run for Parliament in 1983 was, like that of so many overseas-based CIs-ers, taken after an approach from concerned residents.

In his case, it was from Demos looking for a strong successor to the beloved figure of Papa Vainerere.

What they got was a totally different successful candidate.

Convinced that there was no way he could imitate the well-nigh venerated style of his predecessor, Norman George struck out on his own from the start.

"The attacks hurt, I can tell you."

In doing so, he drew controversy from the outset.

He made no secret of his dissatisfaction with the level of development Atiu had reached.

What others have described as his scorn for Outer Islands conditions, he has summed up as saying that he believes his Atiuan people "are entitled to a lot better than they have been given".

He gives distant respect for traditional institutions (There was a time when he used to go jogging on Sundays!) but basically states firmly his belief in the importance of change.

It is a pragmatically organised change he foresees.

The outspoken advocate of free enterprise in the Rarotongan situation, is an equally strong interventionist in the development of the Atiuan economy.

"There is still vast work needed by government to develop Atiu's infrastructure before the people can tackle totally free enterprises," he explains.

His rise to prominence nationally and internationally has been nothing short of meteoric.

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"We've invested everything in our own country."

POLITICS

(ctd...from Page 7)

In reaching the glamorous positions of Chairman of Cabinet and Minister of Foreign Affairs, he has made many enemies.

"He has gone too fast!" would sum up many crticisms.

The critics have tended to obscure an acknowledged sound and workmanlike record in the other portfolios he has held, such as Immigration and Corrective Services.

But it is Foreign Affairs which has attracted most of the attacks.

It is a Ministry which, to all intents and purposes, did not exist before Norman George.

The fierce loyalty he has always shown his staff has meant a fast advance for those in his Ministry.

The high profile always associated with Foreign Affairs has projected Norman George on to the world and regional scene.

The dramatic shift in development drive in Coalition times towards "non-traditional" aid sources has propelled him to the forefront of national financial affairs.

All this has made him a target.

The extent that he has become a threat to both sides of the opposition can be measured in the now apparent Parliamentary tactic to try and ignore him.

A policy of "malign neglect" by the opposition is but the latest in a protracted concentration upon Norman George as an opponent whom it is vital to dispose of.

The attacks have swung from directly personal to ridicule, invective and rational dismissal such as Vincent Ingram's dismissive "he just hasn't got the seat count!"

"If you're still bothered, come down to the house and go through the books."

-Post interview comment.

What they are aiming at is the image of Norman George as a future PM.

Unconvincingly, he denies he is interested in the post!

His strengths are his unmatchable record of open debate, especially through the media, and a fairly safe seat.

His weaknesses are his Outer Islands base and his failure to date to find a strong common platform around which to rally nationwide support.

After several weeks of what his supporters deemed to be attack by the JOURNAL, we were invited to spend an evening "at home" with the Minister at his Titikaveka home to see "the real Norman George". On the understanding, we could ask what we liked, we accepted.

We picked the Minister up after work, shirt and tied, briefcased and weary after a long session in the House.

It was a 20 minute trip home to Titikaveka to meet wife Tungane, known in local political circles not only as the "model" political wife, but also as possessor of a "model" figure after five children and a working woman's life!

Our interview took place amidst the family routine of relaxing, pig feeding, plantation inspection, kid-whacking and, for this special occasion, a flagon of George Ellis new CIs. lager!

The notorious "new house" overshadowed the evening, standing on the hilltop overlooking a dramatic vista of the Titikaveka lagoon at sunset.

It was the starting point of our interview.

JOURNAL: Well, what about the house ?
NORMAN GEORGE: The attacks hurt, I can tell you.
J: You surely can expect them ?
NG: For myself, of course. But not in this case as it involves my wife and all we have worked for. We have paid our way in life. People who know us, know that Nane and I have worked. She and I put our resources together and earned enough for a house in NZ. We sold up to come here. That is the basis of our ability to seek a mortgage. And that lady worked for us to have it.
J: What's the point behind it all, though ? Why does it need to be so impressive ?
NG: We've worked for something we can be proud of. Our people will understand that. In the same way as they wonder why Geoffrey Henry hasn't built a house yet. My house is not just Norman George's house it is an Atiu house for Atiuans to stay at, to come to and to be proud of. At the same time, we have led our lives determined not to be dependent on politics for survival. We want to be secure, in or out of government. That way, I am offering the people my abilities not my needs. That way I can be in politics to serve.
J: And what about the payments ?
NG: First, you say

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

"I do things in style!"

POLITICS

(ctd....from Page 8)

I am accused of some deal with Mainline Brown. I don't work like that, and neither, I believe do that company. I put my house up for tender. Their tender did not suit me, so I went my own way.

J: Who is building it, then?

NG: I have a private contractor, Ian McCrae. Des Eagleton is my surveyor. Warren Parkinson designed it and Alan Alder is the bricklayer. He works with two people. He costs but, man, he knows how to work!

J: And the finance ?

NG: Your published figure is ludicrous. (We were given a private evaluation at a minimum of $250,000. Others went as far as $½m). $150,000 in round figures. We have taken on a private mortgages after selling our house, we have saved money and we have a Developm-ent Bank loan.

J: Ah...

NG: Yes, I AM the Minister of the Development Bank and my loan was negotiated in 1986 BEFORE I became minister. Let the critics note!

J: So you have no fears about the publicity ?

NG: Not at all. If people want to make fun of us, they are making fun of a successful CIs-er being successful! I do things in style and am not ashamed of it. Yes, I want my house to be the most beautiful in the Cook Is. I want to represent my island in style. Atiu Way!

J: What do you feel really about the critics ?

NG: People are just bloody cruel at times. We worked long hours of shift work. 15 years my wife and I put in to getting a start in life. And now people scoff at us and say I've robbed the bank. Are we not allowed to prosper in our OWN country ? We invested, saved our money, worked hard borrowed two thirds and have invested all we have in our own country. The trouble is some people are not interested in the truth. Not even interested enough to face me and ask.

J: Why do you feel that you seem to attract some fierce criticism from whites ? Is it racial ?

NG: Some seem to display the "jumped up Maori " problem. It's their problem not mine. Some seem to like to look upon me as some 'jumped up Maori..' A few. Others don't. Europeans as a whole should think and remember I have been their greatest supporter. More have been granted permanent residence through me than under any other Minister in recent times. I am their best and biggest defender. Maybe their minority don't like independent-minded Maoris. But I am ruthlessly fair to all. Non-racial and I won't accept any sign of racialism in others.

J: On the subject of politics generally, are we right to characterise you as right wing ?

NG: I have always supported open, free enterprise. I don't know where Geoffrey (Henry) got it that I was once a Labour man. I have never been a Labour supporter. We got drenched in political blood in 1978 fighting for the principles of free enterprise.

J: How do you reconcile that that with your levels of patronage in Atiu?

NG: Give it whatever name you like. I look for jobs for my people. I care about my people. I think of the food they need. I will not let up until every household has at least one job. That I regard as an essential service to my people. The Outer Islands have missed out on this service for far too long.

J: And the free enterprise?

NG: Real competition is giving people first an equal chance first.

J: Do you support a multi-racial society ?

"Maybe I expect too much, too soon..I tend to shoot from the hip!"

NG: Of course. Most white CIs-ers anyway have CIs. wives or husbands and are part of CIs. families. Colour plays no role in my considerations.

J: What about the accusation of handing out jobs to buy off opponents like your close Aide Tepou Boaza (ex-CIP candidate) and CAO Moe Boaza ?

NG: Instead of vague accusations, start looking at each case on its merits. Tepou and I are buddies from way back. Sure, he was a CIP candidate. How can anyone marrying into Albert's family be anything

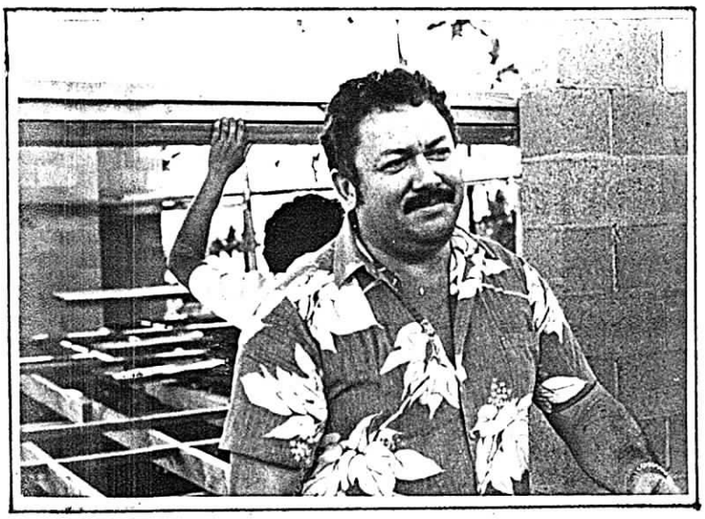
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

"The people have a representative who will give them a proud image."

Open to all
AML
AFTER WORK
WEEK-ENDS
TONIGHT
WELCOME

POLITICS

(ctd...from Page 9)



else if he's in politics? Anyone who knows us, knows we're happy working together. As for Moe, he's a great local leader. He deserves the job. Look, think. My family are mataiapo. We owe allegiance to many people. Start from there. That's thinking in Atiuan terms.

J: What are your weaknesses, do you feel?

NG: I know I expect too much, maybe too soon. It makes me over-quick. I tend to shoot from the hip. I'm learning.

Inevitably, we end up back at the house. The pigs have all been fed. Sunset is pure brochureville. There's a barbecue on down below.

"In the eyes of our island," he says, "the people have a representative who will give them a proud image. Atiu tere parties will be here. International diplomats will come here to an Atiuan family in a fine Cook Islands home."

(All photos by O. Lewis)

NEWS – international

TAHITI

GEORGE KELLY RESIGNS

A vote of no-confidence has been tabled in the French Polynesian Territorial Assembly, according to a CIs. Foreign Affairs spokesman.

The JOURNAL was informed over the weekend that 28 out of the 41 member Assembly were prepared to support the vote directed at the leadership of President Jacques Teuira.

Instigators of the vote which is due to be held this week were former Deputy President Alexandre Leontieff and Agriculture Minister Georges Kelly, the Avatiu-born brother of JOURNAL owner Terupe Patiare Kelly.

Leontieff and Kelly were reported to have resigned office simultaneously with their sponsoring of the anti-Teuira vote.

For Kelly, the dramatic political events came at a time of great personal loss marked by the death of his father Tepou on Thursday last week.

THE JOURNAL COMMENTS:

In many respects the vote comes as no surprise.

The enforced resignation of ex-President Gaston Flosse earlier this year left a power vacuum in the ranks of the ruling Tahoeraa Huiraatira party.

Flosse was virtually forced out to clear an impasse caused by the protracted December-February dockers strike which Flosse alleged was fomented by opposition MP and businessman Quito Braun Ortega.

Tahoeraa was split over the succession

Alexandre Leontieff

to the leadership of the ruling right wing coalition.

Flosse himself was rumoured to have inspired party fears that the then Deputy President Alexandre Leontieff would do a deal with moderate opposition parties and radically alter the composition of the existing cabinet.

It was thus that current President Jacques Teuira (decried by opponents as a Flosse "stooge" and a means for Flosse to maintain control behind the scenes) emerged as a compromise candidate guaranteeing the continuation of the Flosse cabinet line-up.

It was an open secret at the time that Kelly (ironically a long-time Flosse protege and leading party organiser) strongly supported Leontieff and the deal with the moderate (non-independantiste) opposition.

Both Kelly (a strong grass-roots Tahitian nationalist) and Leontieff (a popularly supported economics and industry specialist) are likely to have been extremely unhappy with the handling of last month's dockers violence and the strong right-wing pro-French shift in policy Flosse has engineered in recent months.

Should the vote next week be successful, one can expect a Leontieff Presidency to follow which would assume moderate social democratic stances, clean up excessive corruption and place the economy on a cost-efficient basis.

Should the vote be unsuccessful, one can expect a strengthening of French influence and further polarisation between the right and centre in Tahitian politics.

NOUMEA

NO TO NON-VIOLENCE

M. Yeuwene Yeiwene (Deputy Leader of the FLNKS)..."ready for anything."

A radical swing away from previously declared policy of non-violence was approved at a Congress of the National Liberation Front of Kanaky (FLNKS) at their November assembly in Yate, New Caledonia

The mid-November meeting witnessed a hardening of attitudes among all sections of the parties which comprise the FLNKS coalition.

Resolutions named Melanesians working with the "French Army of Occupation" as "collaborators and traitors similar to those who worked with the Nazis in France in WW2".

Tension was heightened at the Congress by the 6 November death of a young Melanesian at the hands of French gendarmes.

Chairman of the FLNKS, Jean-Marie Tjibaou called for a shift in policy towards one of "self-defense".

Whilst still ruling out terrorism as formal policy, deputy leader Yeuwene Yeiwene called upon members to be "ready for anything".

He called for no mercy to be shown towards Melanesian "collaborators".

As for the current French plans for "territorial autonomy" in New Caledonia, they were, according to Mr. Yeiwene, "a calculated policy to marginalise kanaks in their own country."

FINANCIAL INDICATORS

Continuing negative reactions to attempts to restore world financial stability are causing increasing alarm among Western governments, according to a wide range of Agency Reports.

Light reductions in European interest rates appear to be having only short term positive effects and a pattern of brief stock-market rallies followed by rapid reversals set in throughout November.

Experts attached to the West German Central Bank declare last month's USA White House-Joint Party proposals on reducing the US budget deficit to be insufficient to restore world confidence.

Olympics

The extreme left social terror organisation "The Red Army" intend to disrupt the 1988 Seoul Olympics, according to Japanese press reports.

The reports follow Japanese police interviews with a recently arrested leader of the Tokyo terrorist group, Osamu Maruoka (37).

On Maruoka's possession was found a ticket for Seoul together with cash amounting to $US 37,000.

Police reports suggest that the Red Army may be intending to mount terrorist operations during both the South Korean Presidential elections and the Olympic Games.

In a recently intercepted Red Army communique, the Games were condemned as a counter-revolutionary activity linking South Korea, Japan and the USA in their "continuing plot to establish hegemony over the Region".

Maruoka is suspected of being directly involved in several Red Army terrorist actions including the seizing of a JAL plane over India in 1977, another near Amsterdam in 1974 and the occupation of the French Embassy in the Hague in 1974.

The Cook Islands will be making its first ever appearance at the Games in Seoul following the granting of its IOC charter earlier this year.

THE PHILIPPINES

Mrs. Cory Aquino

Pro-Western Phillippines President Mrs. Cory Aquino has announced that she will not be seeking a second term of office when her Presidential tenure expires in 1992.

Her statement followed reports in the Manilla daily "Malaya" that she would be re-running for President in 1992 - a statement which was contrary to the reported understandings in cabinet.

Mrs Aquino's statement declared that she would continue to "defend her rights and oppose her rivals but not in elections."

AIDS And The LIVING "LAELAES"

Contestant at the 1987 MISS RAERAE Finals

Our closest neighbour, Tahiti offers all the social infrastructure in which the AIDS virus "breeds". When AIDS strikes the Cook Islands, it may well be imported from Tahiti-land of prostitutes, free-wheeling sex and a huge tourist industry.

The last AIDS "census" in Tahiti was in September. It revealed 32 cases of AIDS, two of which were clinical (with one subsequent death) and 21 permanent Tahitian residents.

About 10% of the population were examined.

Authorities are undertaking an in-depth education programme on socially responsible attitudes, "safe sex", encouragement of the use of condoms and heightened surveillance.

Last week, the Papeete Daily, Les Nouvelles, printed the results of an inquiry they conducted into the attitudes of the class probably most "at risk" - the street walking, red-light boy/girls who are a cultural feature of Polynesian night life throughout the Pacific.

In the first of a series of articles, Les Nouvelles interviewed the "RaeRaes" at their nightly work -picking up clients on the streets of Papeete.

Whilst some of the replies may contain a lot of deliberate exaggeration, the interviews do reveal an attitude which casts major doubts on the effectiveness of any programmes seeking to come to grips with AIDS through education and social responsibility pleas.

The subject was interviewed waiting by a car on the look-out for customers. "She" agreed to be questioned anonymously and with no photos.

LES NOUVELLES: Are you frightened of AIDS.
X: Not really. I use condoms.
LN: But there are other ways of catching AIDS...
X: I'm choosy who I go with. I judge the customer by the way he looks. Anyway, I get myself examined.
LN: How often ?
X: Every month at the Malarde Institute (AIDS Centre).
LN: Do you go there by choice ?
X: They ask us to report there.
LN: Once they've registered you, do they try to change your way of life ?
X: They just ask us to use condoms and advise against penetration too much.
LN: Do you always use condoms.
X: Yes I've always got them on me.
LN: So you wouldn't do anything without wearing one ?
X: That's right.
LN: But if the customer prefers that you shouldn't use one...
X: I'd refuse him.
LN: And do your "friends" all have the same attitude.
X: Most of them. Sort of.

THE NEXT INTERVIEW WAS WITH A NEARBY PAIR WHO OPERATE AS A TWOSOME:

LN: Are you afraid of AIDS ?
X: Afriad? No.
LN: Not even a little?
X: No way. Anyway, if you get AIDS you die. And even if you don't get it, you'll die one day.
LN: True but a lot quicker if you get AIDS!
X: It's not worth getting afraid of dying.
LN: Do you use condoms with your partners ?
X: It all depends on the person. But if we can, we use them.
LN: But without them, you're taking enormous risks.
X: Not really.
LN: What do you mean "not really"?
X: Because it's all quite natural, for heaven's sake.
LN: Natural or not, it's still surely very dangerous ?
X: I don't think it's dangerous.
LN: Why not?
X: Because...
LN: Well, sex with numerous different partners does involve risk. About how many partners to you have on average ?
X: Four a week.
LN: And you ?
Y: Three a week.
X: I don't count. Sometimes 30 times a month.
LN: With whom ? Soldiers ?
X: Oh. I would never go around with soldiers.
LN: Why not ?
X: I like locals better.
Y: It depends on the soldier.
LN: Do you have another job in the daytime ?

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

(Ctd...from Page 12)

X: Yes.
Y: Not me. I don't work. I'm a full-time tart!
LN: How much do you charge?
X: Between 5 and 10 thousand francs a go. (up to $150NZ)
LN: Never less ?
X: Never. And to sleep the night between 10 and 20 thousand.
LN: And you ?
Y: It all depends on what the customer looks like ?
LN: Do you ever do it for nothing.
Y: Of course, if I like the person.
LN: Do you know any "raeraes" with AIDS ?
X/Y: No. We all know each other. There's no one.
LN: Do you often talk about it ?
X: Ahuh.
LN: And the general opinion ?
Y: I don't know. The others aren't afraid though.
LN: Do you have sex among yourselves ?
X: Certainly not. We respect each other.
LN: Do the police annoy you ?
X: No. They're nice.
LN: How did you get on during the recent curfew ?
X: Oh we worked down at the airport or used our homes. People know where we live.

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SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER 1987
ATIU MOTEL:
Atiu Champions vs. Brian and June Baudinet (former Cook Islands National Champions)

EVERY WEEK

Super LOOK

Hit singles from the sound track of the very popular "La Bamba" movie fill the Radio Ikurangi CIs. top ten. With very few changes from last week, the JOURNAL takes time out to look at the movie itself and the age of seminal rock it portrays.

The director of the widely acclaimed and superbly atmospheric "La Bamba" just had to have been around at the time.

In the fifties, that is.

One moment gives it all away.

In what proved to be the closing moments of a film which is almost unquestionably the best ever "pop biography", a news flash cuts in to announce the deaths in a private air crash of Buddy Holly, the Big Bopper and the little-known Ritchie Valens.

The scene freezes memory for any in the audience.

There is a silence on the sound track. It is a silence as shocking as the slow-motion air collision motif which is inserted subliminally throughout the film.

To the now middle-aged who remember that moment in homes, playgrounds, classrooms and coffee bars back then in the Era of pimples, pin-ups and magically unbreakable 45's, the shock of deja vu is very real.

It was all long before the ritual mass media bringing news of fresh zillions blasted

bringing news of fresh Gulf zillions blasted back into the arms of Allah or the latest escapades of the latest Purple-Spotted March 32nd People's Liberation Vengeance Platoon in hijacking the latest manned Pluto probe.

Ironically, before the days of megamass media, news items were more personalised it seems.

And when the announcer cuts in to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

A MERRY CHRISTMAS from RADIO IKURANGI

(Ctd...from Page 13)

bring the news of the death of the great Buddy Holly who's just stoppin stopped spinning on the gramaphone (:), the world did stop still...just like in the film.

The only difference was, it was Buddy Holly who was really mourned..and is still mourned.

After all, one test of whether the blood of the fifties runs in the veins are the very special palpitations brought on whenever Taputu slips "Heartbeat" or "That'll be the day" on the Golden Oldies show!

Critics have now compared the triple deaths of "La Bamba" to the early 50's James Dean cult.

No way, lads. You weren't around at the time! Not if you think that! Dean was mixed up US middle class bobby sox groupie stuff for those who could afford cars to neck around in at drive-ins.

Holly and the Big Bopper deaths were Everymancults. Holly and the Crickets after all, were IT.

Presley, by comparison, was little girls stuff..prepuberty fantasy. Holly still is People's Poetry. Certain people, that is.

And then, there was the other one! ...the one who made it in the quiz shows (Name the third pop star who died with Buddy Holly and the Big Bopper).

17 year old Ritchie Valens, the first Mexican-American to make the 50's hit parade.

Now, in "La Bamba" he is the subject at last. Spotlighted in front of Holly and the Big Bopper (who get walk on parts) and a cameo by ex-Stray Cat Brian Setzer).

Valens is put at the centre of a mood-charged story which portrays California, the early pop rock scene, immigrant Mexican American life and ethnic American poverty with barely a time-honoured cinematic cliche on offer.

It is a superb evening out for the aging.

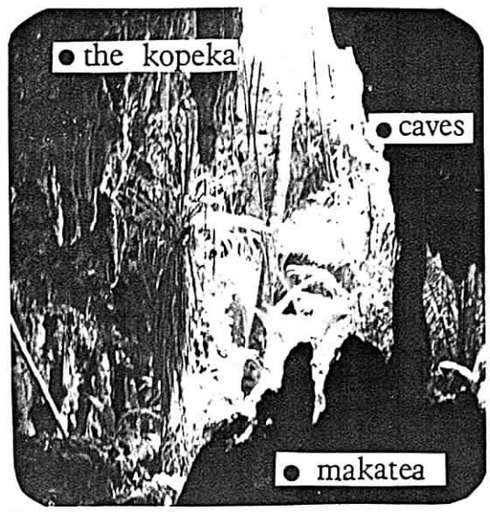
And they need not feel alone in the dark fingering long healed pimples of the past!

The songs, done by Los Lobos, are enough in themselves to ensure company in the audience for those who might have thought "It doesn't Matter Any More"...but now re-discover that it does. And did!

Atiu

Island

- beautiful seclusion
- tropical wilderness
- birds
- beaches.



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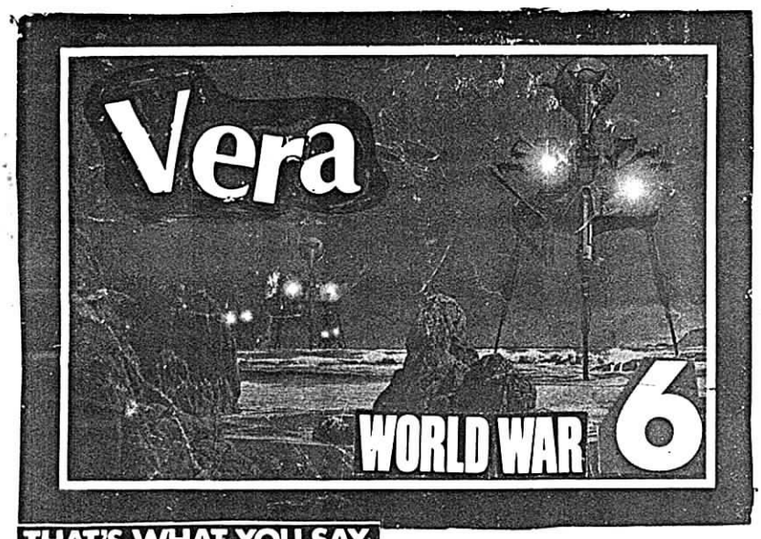
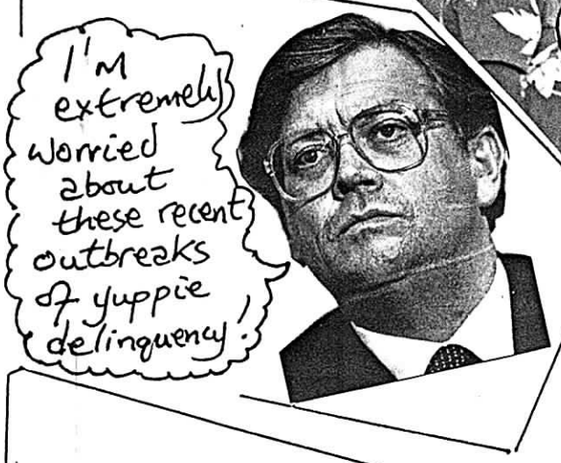
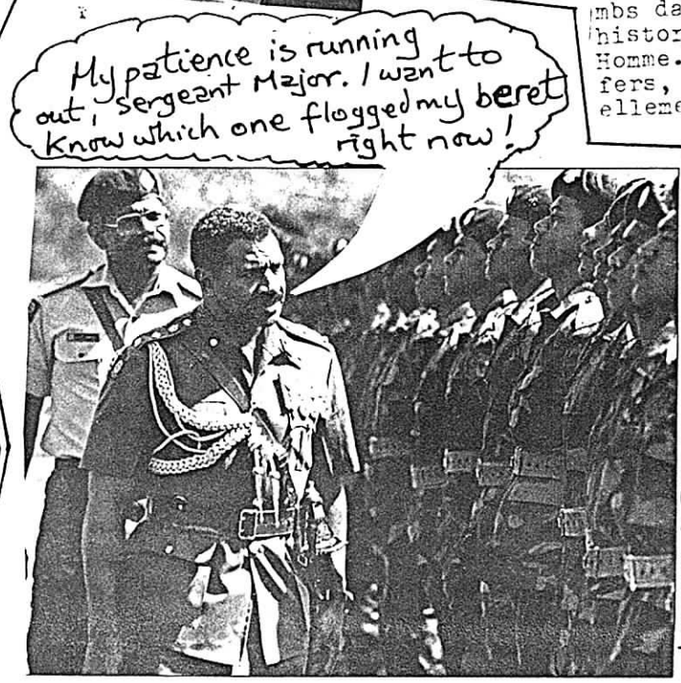
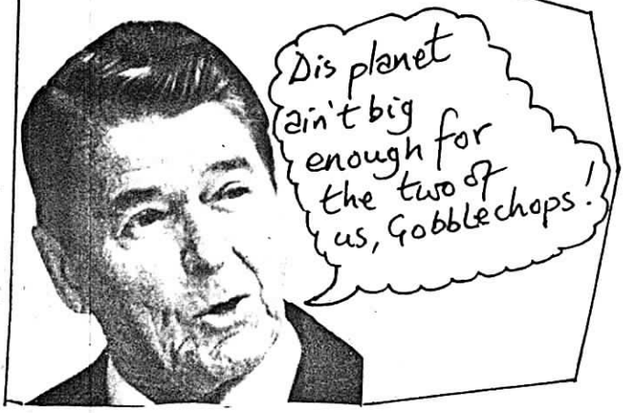
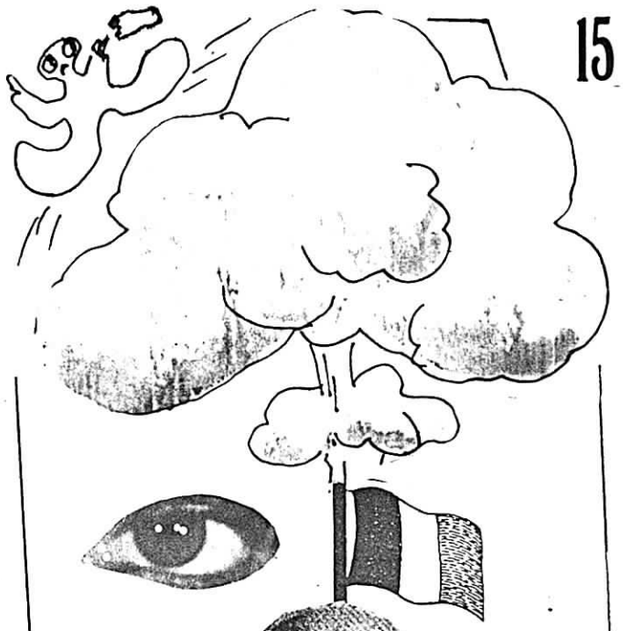


THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY









OFFICIEL

Le French View

UP VOUS

Je expects that, like moi, vous have been spending le week wondering pourquoi le Abominable Raygun et son mate from le darkest Kommieland, le Frightful Goebells Choy sont thinking of organising un grand down-bombs and shake hands all round WITHOUT extending un invitation to le owners of un of less plus enormous bombs dans le history of Homme. Je refers, naturellement, to le Mighty Frog Empire which un overlooks at un's perilmes amis. Je will be soon letting off un grand un to teach les un lesson.

E.

THE JOURNAL & THE (Last) WORD

This week folks, a round up of the various items of astoundingly vital trivia packing them in out there far beyond the Reef where the taro swamps are paved 0.5 carat screwed up share certificates.....

So, throbbing billions of the planet...THIS..is your World!

Woman's Work

Prominent US sexologist Shere Hite (a woman, not a new Muslem faction) has declared that exhaustive studies of US bedrooms indicate that 70% of US woman are unfaithful to their husbands within five years of marriage.

An American Woman

According to her "Women and Love" (published in October), 98% of US women find something lacking in their husbands!

The 44 year old ex-Playboy cover girl appeared at a launching party in red and white "dracula" make-up.

The book has brought a storm of protest throughout the USA and is expected also to bring in a sum to Hite similar to the $2.5m grossed by her two previous sex study best sellers.

But, of course!

Sacred Treasure

A rich West German with nothing better to do wi the his cash last week paid $31000 for an 18th Century bottle of white Riesling.

The organisers of the sale in Wiesbaden reckoned it was the oldest drinkable bottle of brew in the world.

Rubbish, they've never tried Chateau Vaine Moeroa Left Overs on a bad Friday morning.

Mission Improbable

Pickets said to have been appointed by junior Pentagon 3 star Generals rumoured to be shortly about to receive redundacy notices under the forthcoming Reagan-Gorbachev peace initiative, are surrounding the Ilyushin Hangar at Washington Airport.

"Peace is undemocratic and non-American," stated a spokesman for the unemployed Generals.

"When a blond ex-President's daughter can get frisked by a black woman cop watched by a white man in broad daylight, " he said, "We got quite enough democracy to be getting along with for now. Peace will only make things worse!"

LEFT: A blond ex-President's daughter being frisked by a black woman policeman watched by a white man in broad daylight.

STREEP TEASE

Meryl Streep superstar of zillions of astoundingly boring films for those who like astoundingly boring films states that the beautiful Robert Redford is the best kisser in modern films.

Streep (37) has kissed enormous quantities of jokers and reckons she should know.

In a career full of untold astoundingly sensitive boring films, incl-ding two Oscars for Most Boring Film of the Year, Streep has been poisoned by radiation, sent a child to the gas chamber, lost custody of another, broken up with several husbands and been laid by a zillion second leads.

"By contrast, kissing Robert Redford is super," the super-star was misquoted as saying.

ABOVE: A suspenseful moment in the latest astoundingly boring Meryl Streep movie. Shortly after this scene, she moves two paces to the right for an action-packed moment with best kisser in the world, the very beautiful Robert Redford-right

This widely acclaimed scene is regarded by cinema buffs as perhaps the most astoundingly boring scene ever played